Sports in World Culture

Thursday 6:30 – 7:45 - SO 3031

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Office: Social Studies Building 4084
Office Hours: TTH – 9:30-10:30, 12:30 – 5:00, or by appointment.
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Texts: Required:


Course Description:
Everyone has an opinion about sports, either positive or negative, not just in the US but around the world. Many Americans are surprised that soccer or football as it is called everywhere else but in the US is the most popular sport in the world, played everywhere there is a place to kick a ball around. The Olympics, although originally a competition with religious overtones is now supposedly about sporting competition between countries but has become much more in recent times, each host city or country tries to outperform the last in showcasing their society and cultures and it has become extremely expensive. Professional athletes in the most popular sports make huge salaries, which can be a blessing and a curse, as it attracts young athletes to the pro ranks; college athletics in some areas, has turned into a developmental league for some professional sports. What do we make of this? When were the first sports played, how did these sports change over time and when did the era of modern sport begin? These are just a few of the questions we will ask and answer in this class. There will also be a strong focus on the Olympics as the Winter Olympics will occur next month in Sochi Russia.

Course Objectives: This class will attempt a semi-seminar format with some lecture and discussion about the reading assignments and films we will watch. At the end of the semester you should have an heightened understanding of how the study of sports and sporting events in the world reveals a miniature battleground where the major social and cultural issues of current society play out (forgive the pun).

Writing Style
We will discuss the appropriate style for your paper in class. As a historian, I expect you to use Chicago Style found in Turabian, if you are a history major and there is also much information about formatting online. For everyone else, I will be happy to accept the style used in your discipline, as long as you cite your sources for anything that is not common knowledge. You might also want to take at look at http://www.csusb.edu.history/index.html for suggestions on writing, primary source description and formatting. Another good place to look is Son of Citation Machine.

Turnitin.com Your papers must be uploaded to Turnitin.com; instructions and password will be given during class and posted on D2L.

Academic Honesty and student Conduct:
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of these high standards is crucial since the validity and equity of the University’s grades and degrees depend upon it. Any student found guilty of an infraction or a regulation for academic honesty shall be suspended for at least one semester unless evidence is provided to convince the court that substantial mitigating circumstances existed in that student’s offense.
The following regulations are designed to assist students in developing appropriate standards and attitudes with respect to academic honesty. To this end, the regulations protect students against infractions that may compromise the validity of their degree or place them at an undue disadvantage with respect to the equity of their grades.

A. Plagiarism and Cheating
NO student shall receive, attempt to receive knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated; when the languages, ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

B. Unauthorized Access to Official University Materials
NO student shall take or attempt to take, steal, or in an unauthorized manner otherwise procure, gain access to, alter or destroy any material pertaining to the conduct of a class. For further information on Academic Honesty, see the Student Code of Conduct, Section II in the current KSU Undergraduate catalog.

Grading System

Grades will be based on the following scale: A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69 and F 0-60

The final grade will be an average of the following parts:

Major Project Assignment = 45%

For this assignment, you have an opportunity to select your topic some aspect of the history of sports from ancient time to the present. Let us just say that you have many options to choose from and I hope we won’t get any duplication. However, if more than one of you wants to work on a particular topic, you will have to work together to prevent duplication of effort. You will get to select your topic after the first two weeks of class, so you will have time to work on it. So what do you do with the topic after you have selected it? You will have to produce a 10 - 12 page research paper, typed, double-spaced in a 10 or 12 point font, duly footnoted, and including a bibliography AND a 10 minute PPT in which you will present the highlights of your research to the class. I am not going to watch your presentation with an egg timer or stop watch in hand, but do stick as close to the time limit as possible. Both parts of the project will be graded separately, and averaged for the 40% grade. Again, as I know that some of you are not history majors, I will accept the footnote style used in your major, but history majors have to adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style.

If you have concerns about your writing ability, don’t hesitate to visit the English Lab; they are eager to help you with your project, but do explain that you are writing the paper for a history class. Writing styles do vary according to discipline.

Minor Writing Assignments = 30%

These assignments are much shorter and more structured. Each requires you to produce a 50 word sentence, following the instructions for each assignment. They are due throughout the semester and must be handed in on time for full credit. Note Well! You must not exceed 50 TYPED words written as a complete grammatically correct sentence. Check rubric and examples for best results. On every Minor Writing Assignment due date, a few of you will have to read your assignment to the class. (Perhaps 5 people) so be prepared. This will be a random thing.

Final Exam = 25 % (essay format)

TURNITIN

All students are required to register with Turnitin; supported by KSU. This system checks sources of your papers to mainly to prevent accidentally student errors regarding plagiarism. After you register for Turnitin you will be able to submit your drafts for review online and correct any errors if found. This system is something new that I feel will help you become better writers; I am using it upfront to help your writing not
to catch you out in anything. We will go over the system in class. You can also use it, once you are registered to check papers you are writing for other classes. See password info on first page of syllabus.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend every class. Your grade will reflect missed classes.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due on the date posted. Late assignments will lose value fairly rapidly, a full grade every week; this will include postings that miss the date as well.) i.e. 1 -7 days late a moves to B, and so on.

**Incomplete Grade**

At semester's end an incomplete will be considered **only** if you can prove that some emergency prevents you from completing all the course requirements on time, and most of your course work (75%) has been completed.

**Minor Assignment List and Schedule**

Assignment #1  
What is the difference, if any, between sports and games?  
Due January 16

Assignment # 2  
What are the similarities between the ancient Olympic games and your perception of the modern Olympic games?  
Due January 23

Assignment #3  
How did the Romans change the idea of sport and what influence did it have, if any, on modern sports?  
Due January 30

Assignment #4  
Why do you think sports and competition became an important part of western culture during the 18th century?  
Due February 6

Assignment #5  
What was the difference between professional and amateur sportsmen in the 19th and early 20th century Britain and America?  
Due February 13

Assignment #6  
How has television changed the role of sports in the world?  
Due March 6

Assignment #7  
Why do you think many people around the world have become fanatical sports fans?  
Due March 13

**Course Calendar**

January 8  
First Day of Class

March 3  
*Last day to drop without penalty*

March 29 -April 4  
Spring Break

April 29  
Last Day of Class

May  
Final Exam – May 6, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Reading, Lecture and Discussion topics by week

Week One
January 9 - Read Introduction to sports history - sport vs. games, Guttman 1-6 and 7-11.

Week Two
January 14 - 16 - Sports in ancient times, the first Olympics, Read Perrotet book, and Guttman 12 - 25.

Minor Assignment #1 due, January 16

Week Three
January 21 - 23 - From the Roman games through the Middle Ages; sport as preparation for war, Guttman 26 - 67.

Week Four
January 28 - 30 - The British invent modern sports and America follows. Guttman 68 - 156

Week 5
February 4 - 6 – Institutionalization and modernization of sports in the US and Britain, Guttman, 89 - 156

Week Six
February 11 - 13 – Professional vs. amateur sport

Week Seven
February 18 - 29 - Sports and government in the 20th and 21st century


Week Nine
March 4 - 6 - Sports and television; marriage made in heaven or hell?

Week Ten - The world's game; football (soccer) Read the Foer book
March 11 - 13

Week Eleven - Hooliganism, Fandom, Advertising and Gambling
March 18 - 20

Week Twelve - Modern Sports a Global phenomenon, Guttman 307-326
March 25 - 27

Week Thirteen

Spring Break, no classes - March 29 - April 4

Week Fourteen - Fantasy sports - Read Fantasyland
April 8 - 10

Week Fifteen - presentations
April 15 - 17
Week Sixteen - presentations continue
April 22 - 24

Week Seventeen
April 29 - presentations continue

Final Exam – May 6, 6:00 - 8:00 PM